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**Weder**

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(54) **COVERING FOR FLOWER POT AND FLORAL GROUPING**

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(75) Inventor: **Donald E. Weder**, Highland, IL (US)

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(73) Assignee: **Southpac Trust International, Inc.**

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/767,518, filed on Jan. 23, 2001, which is a continuation of application No. 09/353,850, filed on Jul. 15, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,192,625, which is a continuation of application No. 08/971,206, filed on Nov. 14, 1997, now Pat. No. 5,956,898, which is a continuation of application No. 08/526,335, filed on Sep. 11, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,699,648, which is a continuation of application No. 08/183,010, filed on Jan. 14, 1994, now Pat. No. 5,479,758, which is a continuation of application No. 08/001,001, filed on Jan. 6, 1993, now Pat. No. 5,307,606.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **A01G 9/02**  
 (52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **47/72**  
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*Primary Examiner*—Charles T. Jordan  
*Assistant Examiner*—Francis T. Palo  
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Dunlap, Coddling & Rogers

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(56)

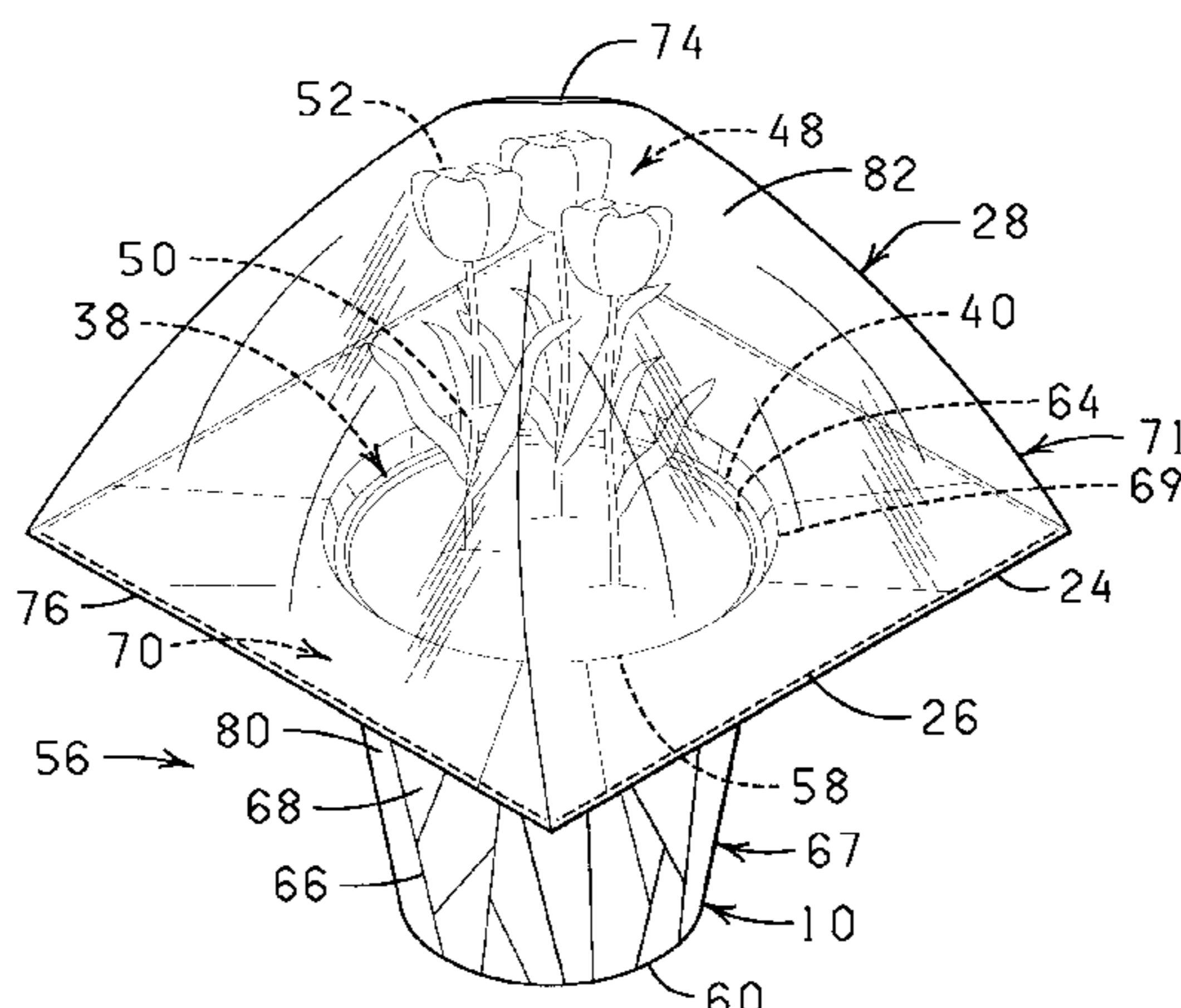
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A cover for use with a flower pot having a floral grouping disposed therein. The cover includes a sheet of material having a sheet extension connected to an outer peripheral surface thereof. The sheet of material is formed into a pot cover for covering the flower pot and the sheet extension extends over the floral grouping.

**4 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**



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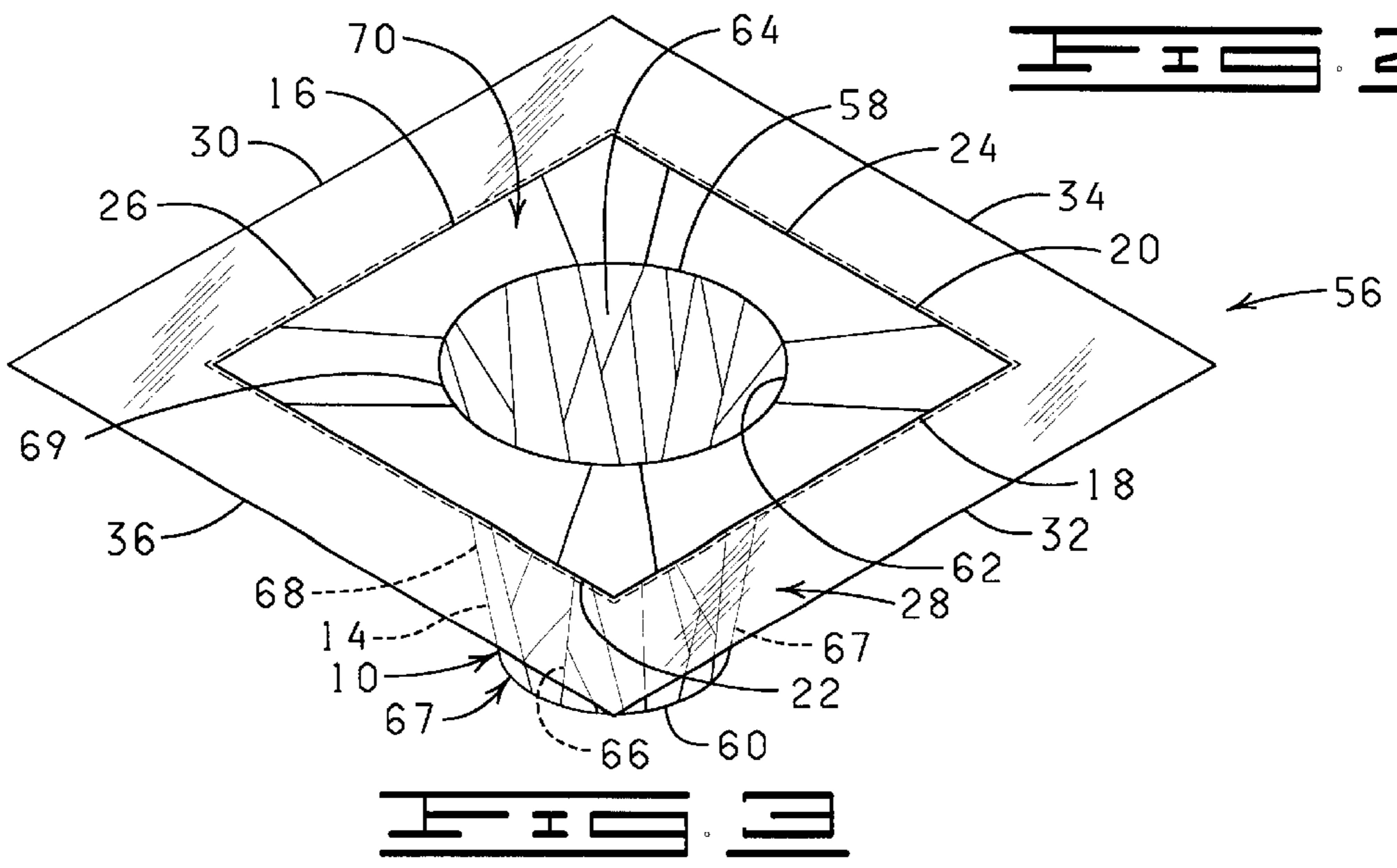
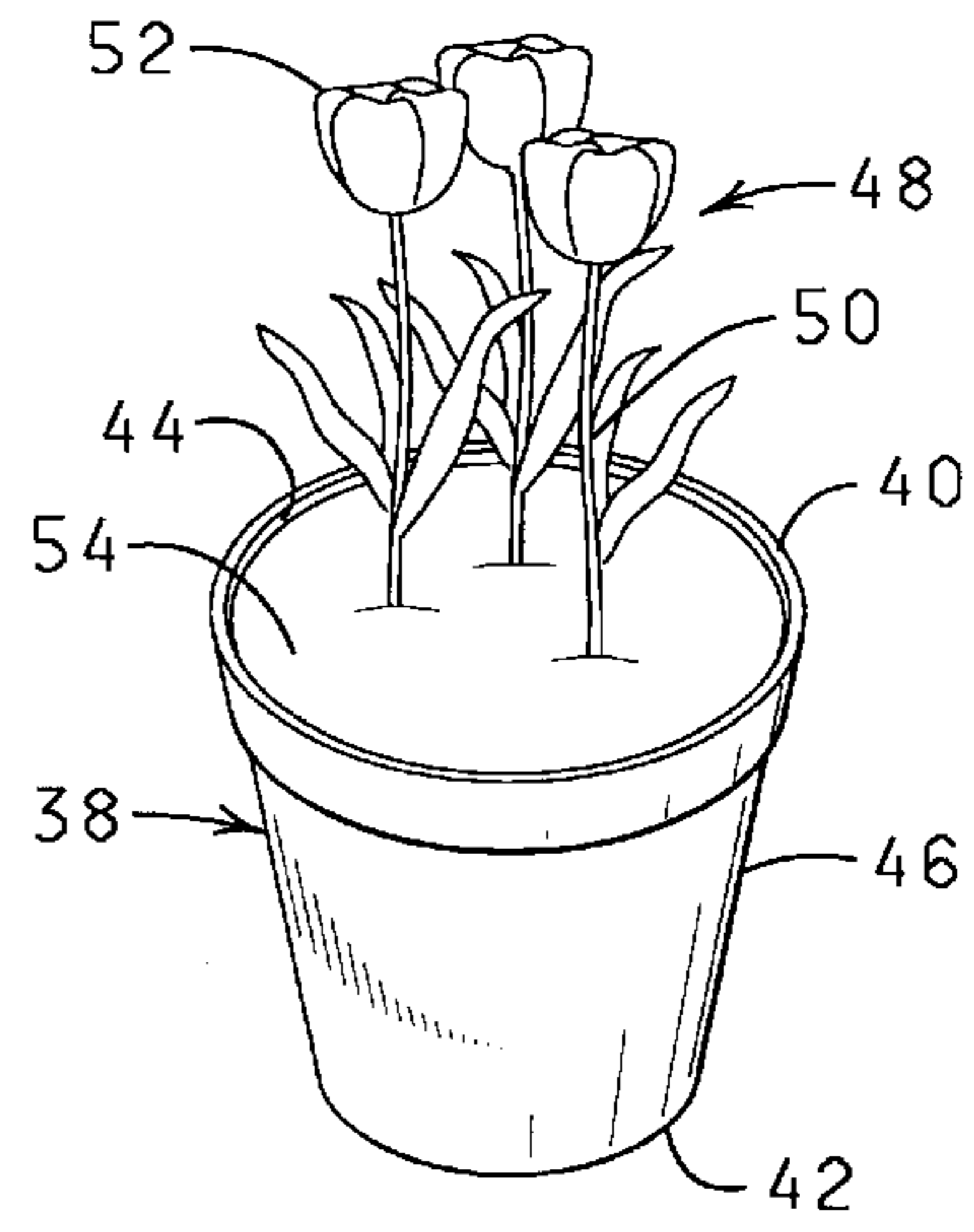
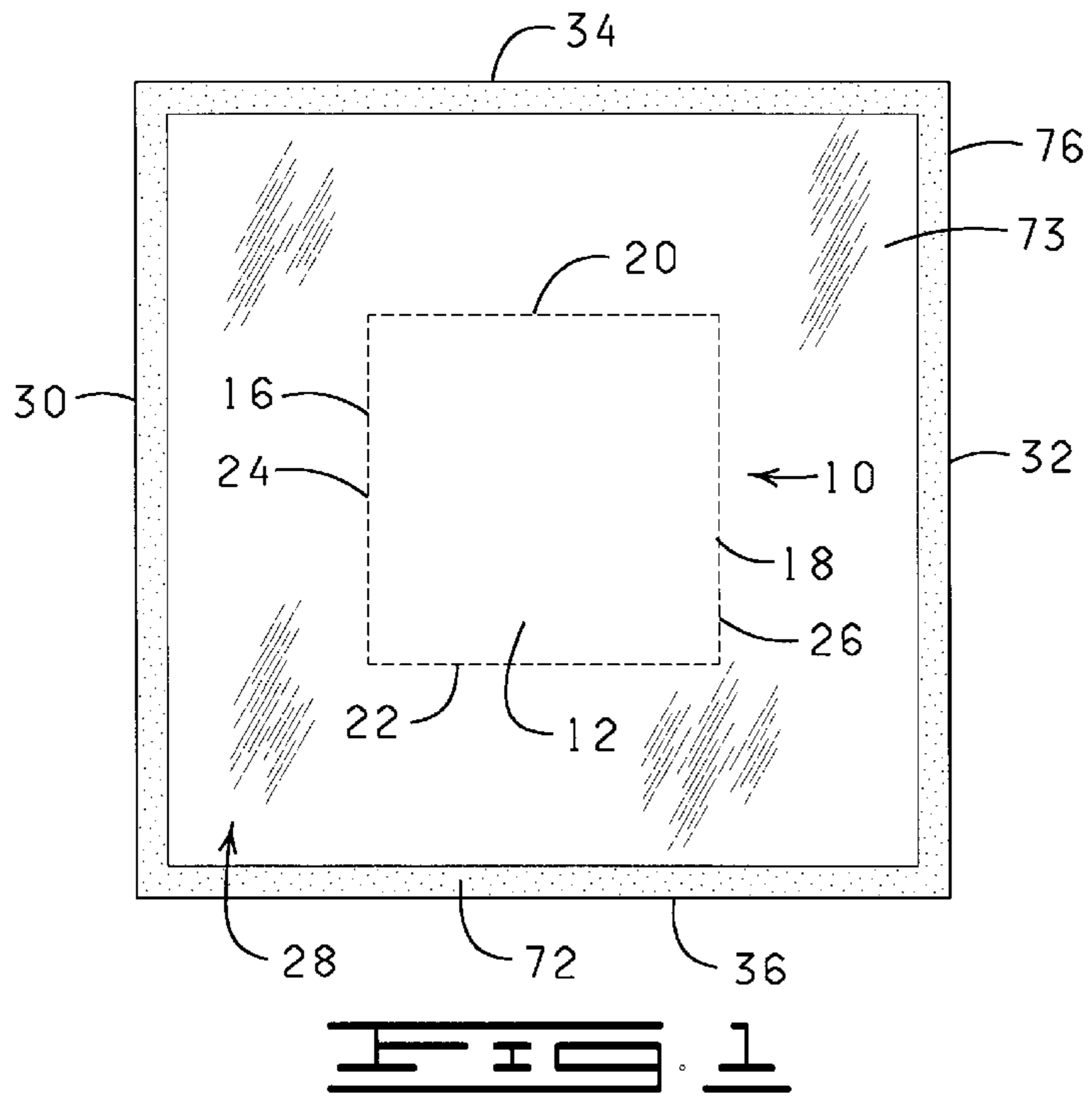
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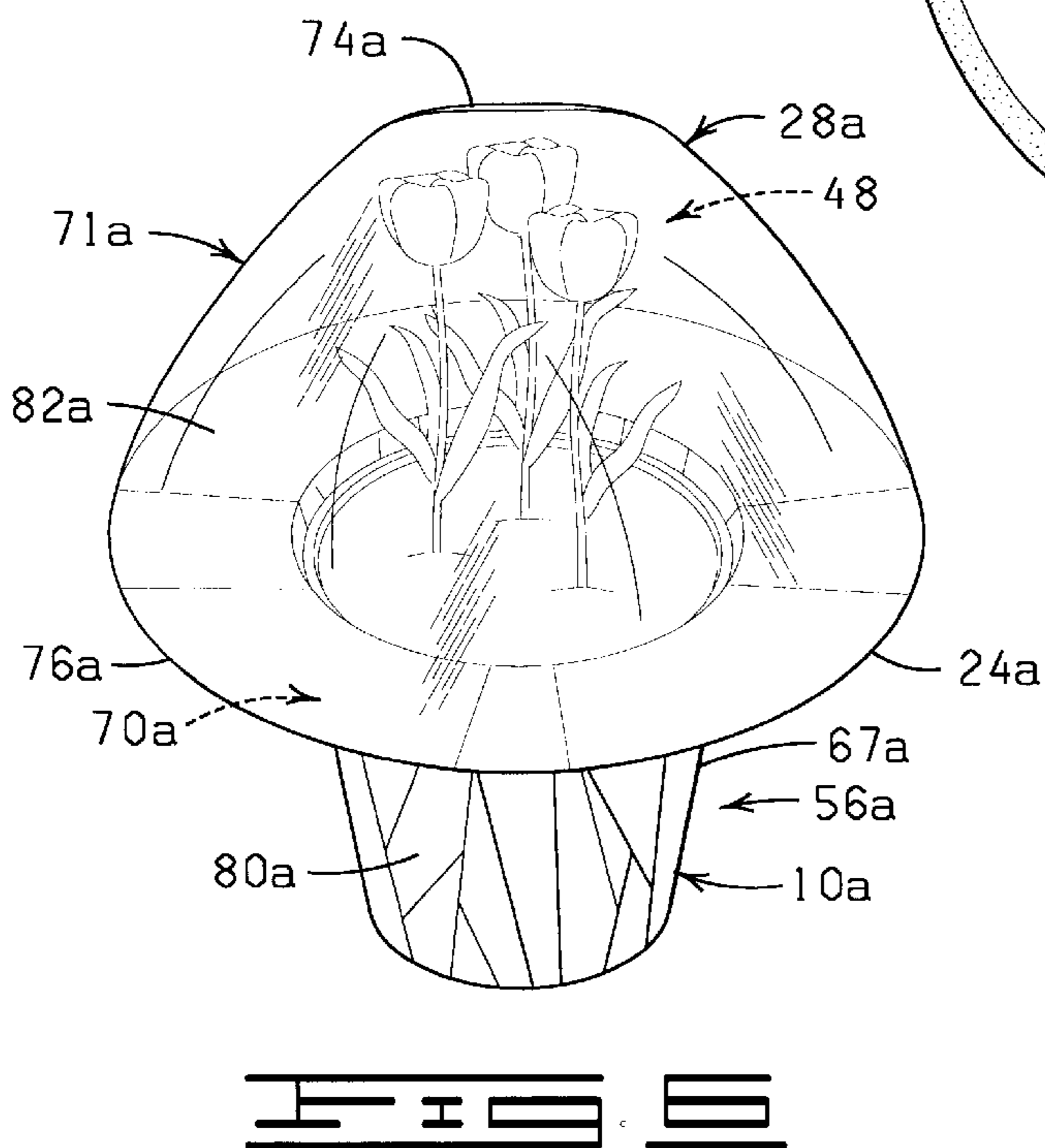
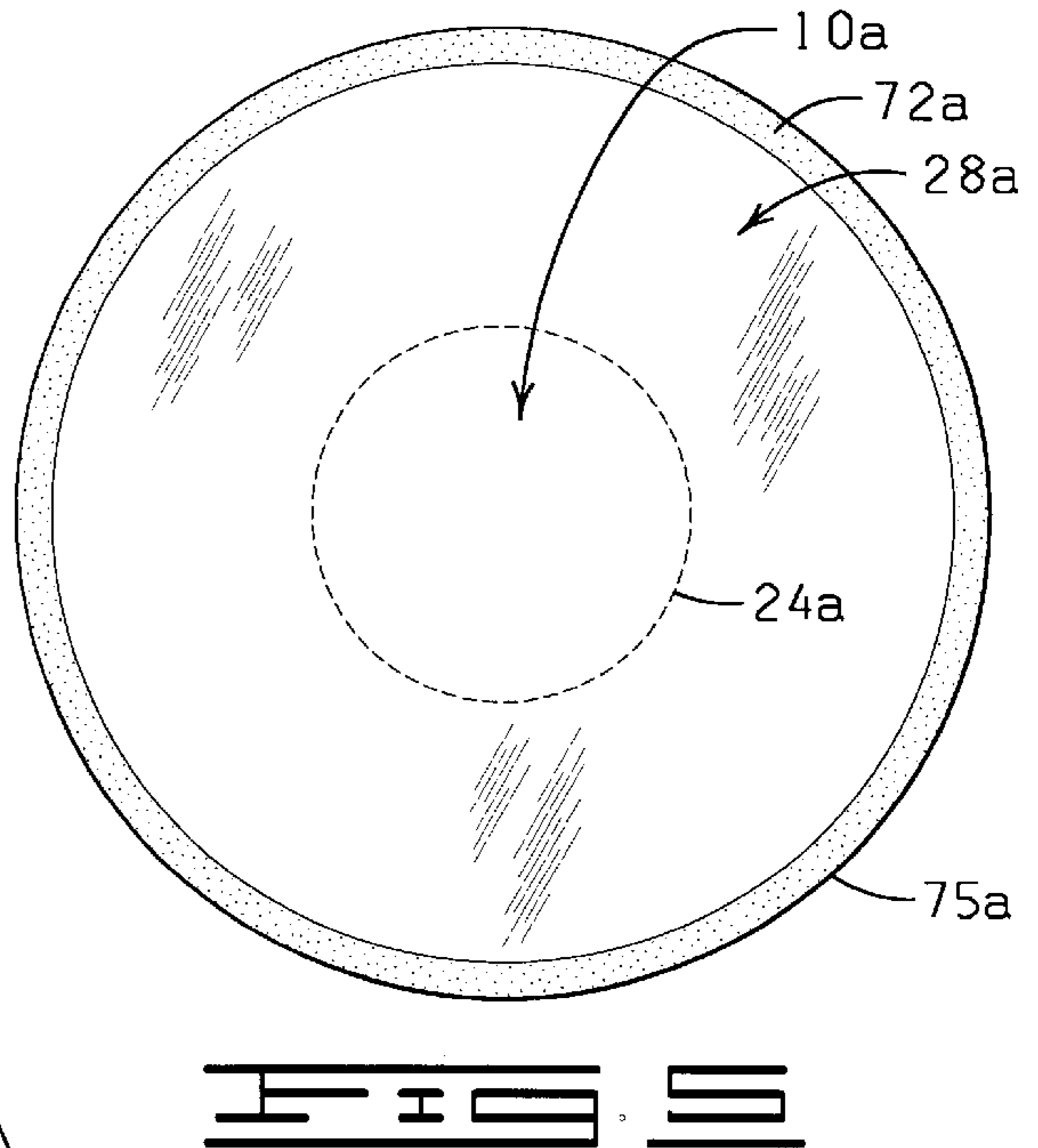
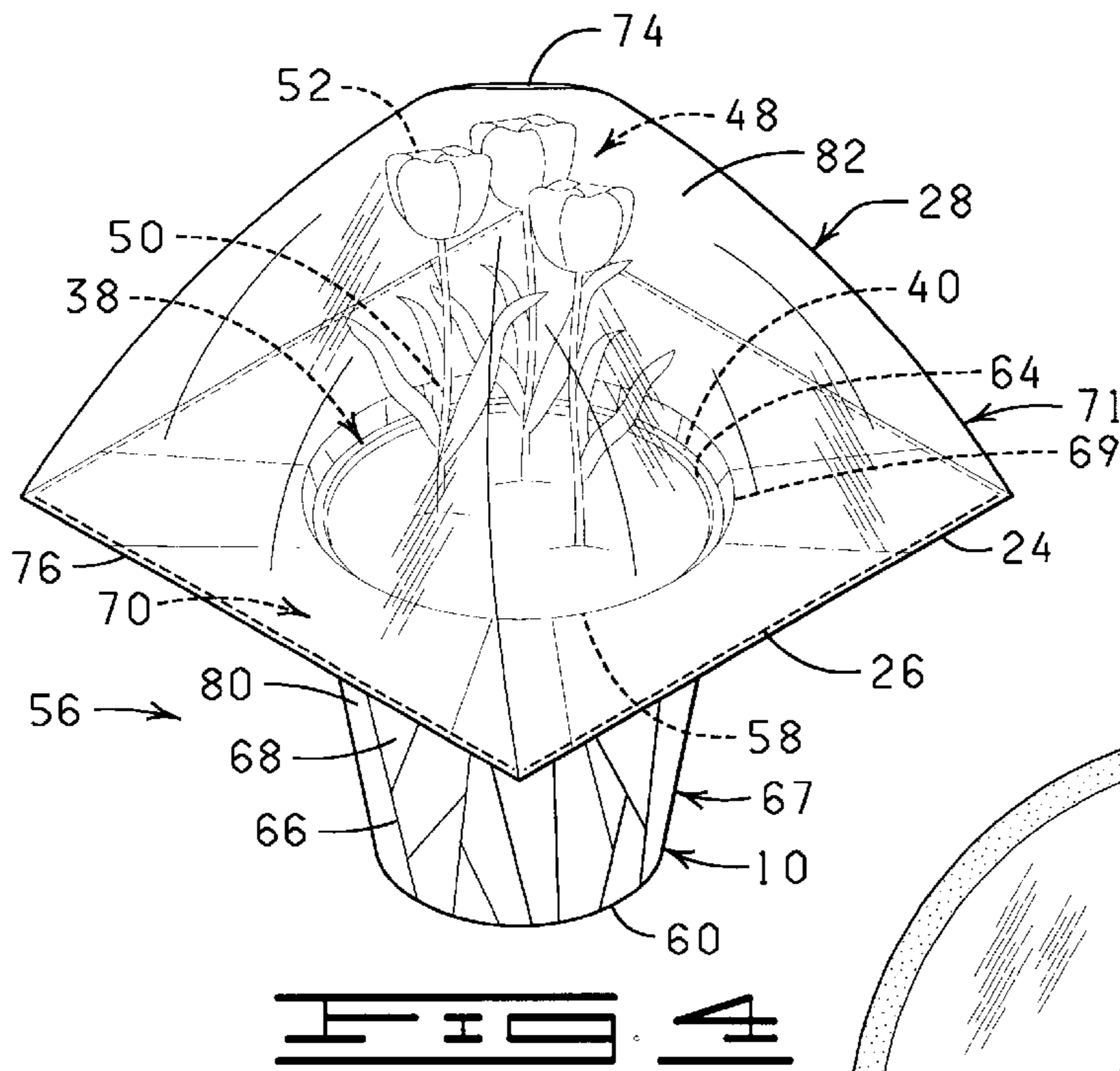
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## COVERING FOR FLOWER POT AND FLORAL GROUPING

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 09/767, 518, filed Jan. 23, 2001; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 09/353,850, filed Jul. 15, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,192,625; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 08/971, 206, filed Nov. 14, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,898; which is a continuation of 08/526,335 filed Sep. 11, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,699,648; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 08/183,010, filed Jan. 14, 1994, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,479,758; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 08/001, 001, filed Jan. 6, 1993, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,307,606.

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to coverings for flower pots and, more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a covering for a flower pot having a sheet extension for extending about a floral grouping disposed in the flower pot.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a sheet of material with a sheet extension connected thereto constructed in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a flower pot having a floral grouping disposed therein.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the sheet of material formed into a pot cover with the sheet extension connected thereto.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing the flower pot of FIG. 2 disposed in the pot cover of FIG. 3 with the sheet extension formed about the floral grouping.

FIG. 5 is plan view of a modified sheet of material with a modified sheet extension connected thereto.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the sheet of material of FIG. 5 formed into a pot cover and having the flower pot of FIG. 2 disposed in the pot cover with the sheet extension formed about the floral grouping.

Referring to FIG. 1, as shown therein and designated by the general reference numeral **10** is a sheet of material constructed in accordance with the present invention. The sheet of material **10** shown in FIG. 1 has an upper surface **12**, a lower surface **14** (FIG. 3), a first end **16**, a second end **18**, a first side **20** and a second side **22**. The ends **16** and **18** cooperate with the sides **20** and **22** to define an outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**. The outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10** is defined by perforations **26**, as shown in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4.

As shown in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4, a sheet extension **28** is connected to the outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, the sheet extension **28** extends a distance outwardly from the outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**. The sheet extension **28** has a first end **30**, a second end **32**, a first side **34** and a second side **36**. A portion of the sheet extension **28** extends a distance outwardly from the first end **16** of the sheet of material **10** terminating with the first end **30** of the sheet extension **28**. Another portion of the sheet extension **28** extends a distance outwardly from the second end **18** of the sheet of material **10** terminating with the second end **32** of the sheet extension **28**. Yet another portion of the sheet extension **28** extends a

distance outwardly from the first side **20** of the sheet of material **10** terminating with the first side **34** of the sheet extension **28**. Still another portion of the sheet extension **28** extends a distance outwardly from the second side **22** of the sheet of material **10** terminating with the second side **36** of the sheet extension **28**.

The sheet extension **28** cooperates with the sheet of material **10** to define a generally square or rectangularly shaped sheet of material with the perforations **26** being disposed in a central portion of the sheet of material and defining the outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**. Preferably, the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** are unitary and formed from a single sheet or plies or multiple sheets one on top of the other which may or may not be laminated.

The sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** are constructed from any suitable flexible material that is capable of being wrapped about a floral grouping and formed into a covering, as described herein. Preferably, the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** are constructed of a material selected from a group of materials consisting of paper, metal foil, cloth (natural or synthetic), including denim, and burlap or polymeric film or combinations thereof.

The term "polymeric film" as used herein means a synthetic or a natural polymeric film. For example, but not by way of limitation, one polymeric film is a polypropylene film. Another example of a polymeric film, but not by way of limitation, is cellophane.

The sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** have a thickness in a range from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils. Preferably, the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** have a thickness in a range from about 0.1 mil to about 5 mils.

The sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** may be any shape and a rectangular shape is shown in FIG. 1 only by way of example. The sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** for example only may be square, rectangular, circular or any other geometric shape such as heart shaped for example only.

The sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** may be constructed of a single layer of material or a plurality of layers of the same or different types of materials. Any thickness of the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** may be utilized in accordance with the present invention as long as the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** are wrappable about a floral grouping and formable into a covering, as described herein. The layers of material comprising the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** may be connected together or laminated or may be separate layers.

The covering of the present invention is particularly constructed to be used with a pot **38** (FIG. 2). The pot **38** has a top **40**, a bottom **42** with an opening through the top **40** forming a receiving space **44** within the pot **38**. The pot **38** also has an outer peripheral surface **46**. As shown in FIG. 2, the pot **38** is generally cylindrically shaped. However, the pot **38** may be any shape as may be desired in a particular application.

A floral grouping **48** is disposed at least partially within the receiving space **44** of the pot **38**, as shown in FIG. 2. The floral grouping **48** has a stem end **50** and a bloom end **52**. In one embodiment as shown in FIG. 2, material such as soil **54** is disposed in the receiving space **44** and a portion of the stem end **50** extends into the soil **54**. The floral grouping **48** extends a distance upwardly from the top **40** of the pot **38** terminating with the bloom end **52**.

The sheet of material **10** with the sheet extension **28** connected thereto is placed between a male and a female die or other forming system (not shown) and formed into a pot cover **56** (FIGS. **3** and **4**). As shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**, the pot cover **56** has a top **58**, a closed bottom **60** and a cover opening **62** (FIG. **3**) formed through the top **58** and extending through the top **58** a distance toward the bottom **60** of the pot cover **56** providing a pot receiving space **64** (FIG. **3**). The pot receiving space **64** is shaped and adapted to receive the pot **38**.

“Floral grouping” as used herein means cut fresh flowers, artificial flowers, a single flower, other fresh and/or artificial plants or other floral materials and may include other secondary plants and/or ornamentation which add to the aesthetics of the overall floral grouping.

A decorative pattern, such as a color and/or an embossed pattern, and/or other decorative surface ornamentation may be applied to the upper surface **12** and/or the lower surface **14** of the sheet of material **10** or portions thereof including, but not limited to printed design, coatings, colors, flocking or metallic finishes. The sheet of material **10** also may be totally or partially clear or tinted transparent material. The sheet extension **28** is transparent, although a decorative pattern also may be applied to the sheet extension **28**.

The pot cover **56** has a plurality of overlapping folds **66** with each of the overlapping folds **66** extending at various distances and at various angles over an outer peripheral surface **68** of the pot cover **56** extending between the top **58** and the bottom **60**. The overlapping folds **66** extend at various angles and over various distance over the outer peripheral surface **68**.

The pot cover **56** includes a base portion **67** and a skirt portion **70**. The base portion **67** has an upper end **69** and is dimensioned to encompass at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface **46** of the pot **38** when the pot **38** is disposed in the pot receiving space **64** of the pot cover **56** (FIGS. **3** and **4**). The skirt portion **70** extends from the upper end **69** of the base portion **67** radially outwardly with an outer perimeter **76** of the skirt portion **70** being formed by the outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**. The perforations **26** extend along the outer perimeter **76** of the skirt portion **70** formed by the outer perimeter **24** of the sheet of material **10**.

The overlapping folds **66** may be connected or at least partially connected. The connection of the overlapping folds **66** may be accomplished by using heat sealing material and heat sealing the overlapping folds **66** or by adhesively or cohesively connecting the overlapping folds **66**.

A pot cover constructed in the manner just described with respect to the pot cover **56** and a system for forming such a pot cover is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,773,182, entitled, Article Forming System, issued to Weder, et al, Sep. 27, 1988, and the disclosure of this patent specifically hereby is incorporated herein by reference.

The pot **38** is placed in the pot receiving space **64** and positioned in the pot cover **56** such that the bottom **42** of the pot **38** is disposed generally adjacent the bottom **60** of the pot cover **56**. The base portion **67** of the pot cover **56** substantially encompasses the entire outer peripheral surface **46** of the pot **38** including the bottom **42**. The base portion **67** of the pot cover **56** extends from the bottom **42** to the top **40** of the pot **38**. The skirt portion **70** extends radially outwardly from the upper end **69** of the base portion **67**.

After the pot **38** has been placed in the pot cover **56**, the sheet extension **28** forms an upper sleeve portion **71** (FIG. **4**) which is formed about the floral grouping **48** to a position

wherein the upper sleeve portion **71** covers and encompasses a substantial portion of the floral grouping **48** including the bloom end **52** of the floral grouping **48**.

The upper sleeve portion **71** preferably includes a bonding material **72** (FIG. **1**) disposed on an upper surface **73** of the upper sleeve portion **71** and extending about an outer perimeter **76** of the upper sleeve portion **71**. After the upper sleeve portion **71** has been formed about the floral grouping **48**, the outer perimeter **76** of the upper sleeve portion **71** is bonded together to provide a closed end **74** of the upper sleeve portion **71** of the pot cover **56** (FIG. **4**).

The base portion **67** and the skirt portion **70** together have an outer surface area **80** which is less than an outer surface area **82** of the upper sleeve portion **71** (FIG. **4**).

The term “bonding material” as used herein means an adhesive, preferably a pressure sensitive adhesive, or a cohesive. Where the bonding material is a cohesive, a similar cohesive material must be placed on the adjacent surface for bondingly contacting and bondingly engaging with the cohesive material. The term “bonding material” also includes materials which are heat sealable and, in this instance, the adjacent portions of the material must be brought into contact and then heat must be applied to effect the seal. The term “bonding material” as used herein also means a heat sealing lacquer which may be applied to the sheet of material and, in this instance, heat also must be applied to effect the sealing. The term “bonding material” as used herein means any type of material or thing which can be used to effect the bonding or connecting of the two adjacent portions of the material or sheet of material to effect the connection or bonding described herein. The term “bonding material” also includes labels, bands, ribbons, strings, tape, staples or combinations thereof.

The sheet extension **28** remains in a position extending about the floral grouping **48** until it is desired to remove the sheet extension **28**. The sheet extension **28** is removed from the pot cover **56** by tearing along the perforations **26**, thereby separating the sheet extension **28** from the pot cover **56**. The sheet extension **28** then is removed from the floral grouping **48** providing a decorative cover (not shown) for the pot **38**.

In addition to the perforations **26**, the upper sleeve portion **71** also may include perforations extending between the perforations **26** and the outer perimeter **76** of the upper sleeve portion **71** to further assist in the removal of the upper sleeve portion **71** when it is no longer desired to keep the upper sleeve portion **71** extending about the floral grouping **48**.

#### Embodiment of FIGS. **5** and **6**

Shown in FIGS. **5** and **6** is a sheet of material **10a** having a sheet extension **28a** connected thereto. The sheet of material **10a** and the sheet extension **28a** are constructed exactly like the sheet of material **10** and the sheet extension **28** shown in FIGS. **1**, **3** and **4** and described in detail before, except the sheet of material **10a** is circularly shaped having a circularly shaped outer perimeter **24a** and the sheet extension **28a** is circularly shaped having a circularly shaped outer perimeter **76a**.

The sheet of material **10a** is formed into a pot cover **56a** having a base portion **67a** (FIG. **6**) in a manner exactly like that described before with respect to the pot cover **56** (FIGS. **3** and **4**), except the pot cover **56a** has a skirt portion **70a** with a circularly shaped appearance and a circularly shaped outer perimeter **76a** defined by the circularly shaped outer perimeter **24a** of the sheet of material **10a**. The sheet

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extension **28a** forms an upper sleeve portion **71a** of the pot cover **56a** which extends a distance outwardly from the skirt portion **70a** and also has a circularly shaped outer perimeter **76a**, as mentioned before.

The base portion **67a** and the skirt portion **70a** together have an outer surface area **80a** which is less than an outer surface area **82a** of the upper sleeve portion **71a** (FIG. 6).

The upper sleeve portion **71a** is formed about the floral grouping **48** in a manner like that described before and secured via a bonding material **72a** (not shown) to provide a closed end **74a**.

Changes may be made in the construction and the operation of the various components, elements and assemblies described herein and changes may be made in the steps or the sequence of steps of the methods described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A covering for a pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the pot having a top, a bottom, a receiving space and an outer peripheral surface, and the floral grouping having a stem end and a bloom end with the floral grouping extending a distance upwardly from the top of the pot terminating with the bloom end, the covering having a closed bottom, an outer surface and a pot receiving space shaped and adapted to receive the pot, and the covering comprising:

a base portion having an upper end and wherein the base portion is dimensioned to cover at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the pot;

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a skirt portion attached to the base portion and having an outer perimeter and extending beyond the upper end of the base portion and together the base portion and skirt portion having an outer surface area; and

an upper sleeve portion having an outer surface area and extending a distance from the skirt portion; and

wherein the upper sleeve portion is detachable from the skirt portion via a non-linear line of perforations disposed therebetween and wherein when the upper sleeve portion is detached from the skirt portion by tearing along the nonlinear line of perforations, the skirt portion is left with a non-linear outer perimeter and wherein the outer surface area of the base portion and the skirt portion is less than the outer surface area of the upper sleeve portion.

2. The covering of claim 1 wherein the upper sleeve portion further comprises bonding material disposed on a portion thereof and when formed about the floral grouping, portions of the upper sleeve portion can be connected via the bonding material to form a substantially closed end.

3. The covering of claim 1 wherein the base portion is tapered from the upper end of the base portion to the closed bottom.

4. The covering of claim 1 wherein the upper sleeve portion is sized to substantially enclose a floral grouping contained by the pot.

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